



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

STAT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

4 December 1981

Mr. Earl W. Foell, Editor
Christian Science Monitor
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Boston, Massachusetts 20006

Dear Mr. Foell:

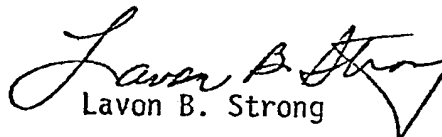
In a letter to you from John B. Zachary, which appeared in Readers Write on December 3, 1981, Mr. Zachary incorrectly asserted that the Central Intelligence Agency is not financially accountable to the American people. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Intelligence Budget is subjected to the same rigorous examination by the President and authorized members of the Congress that other Government agencies undergo. In addition to the regular review by the respective Appropriation Committees, the CIA's budget is closely scrutinized by the Senate and House Intelligence Oversight Committees and the Office of Management and Budget. The size and details of the budget remain unpublished, however, because they would give hostile foreign intelligence services information on this country's intelligence efforts.

I hope you will publish these facts to assuage any concern Mr. Zachary's letter may have caused among your readership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Lavon B. Strong

cc: Comptroller